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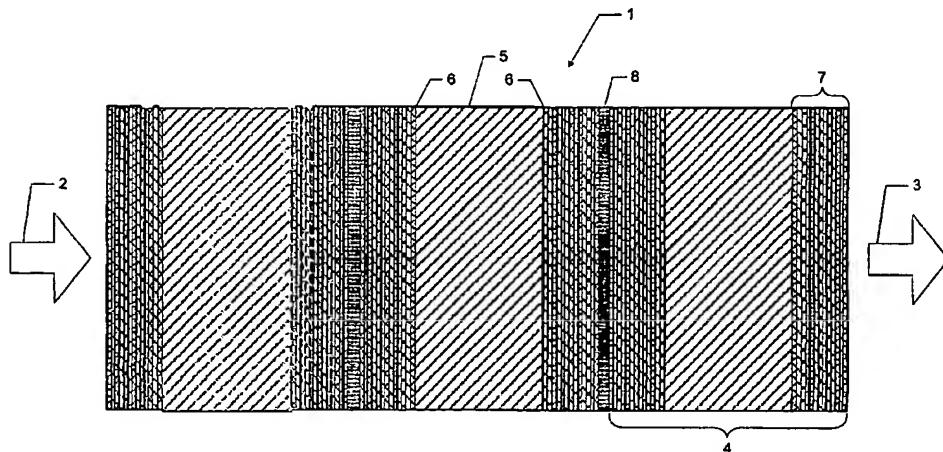
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(54) Title: AN OPTICAL FILTER, AN OPTICAL INTERLEAVER AND ASSOCIATED METHODS OF MANUFACTURE



WO 2005/006033 A1

(57) **Abstract:** The optical filter (1) receives a dense wavelength division multiplexed signal (2) as an input. The filter (1) is adapted to output a single channel (3) of less than 1 nm bandwidth. The filter (1) has a plurality of cavities (4) which are each optically connected to an adjacent cavity (4) by means of a coupling layer (8). One or more cavities (4) include a spacer (5) of thickness greater than 7 µm. Each spacer (5) defines two opposed surfaces (6) each having a plurality of thin layers (7) disposed thereon. Preferably the total number of thin layers (7) per cavity (4) is less than 35. Also disclosed are optical interleavers.